accordance with convention No. 131 the needs of workers and their families and economic factors including the requirements of economic development and high level of employment are the elements to be taken into consideration while determining the level of minimum wages. Neither of these Conventions specify the actual minimum wages to be paid to any categories of workers in member states. India has ratified Convention No. 26 but not Convention No. 131.

ESI Hospitals at Triupathi and Nizamabad

2364. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether ESI hospitals at Tirupathi and Nizamabad are not having full fledged medical facilities; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to expand their activities for the benefits of local labourers covered under ESI benefits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) The responsibility for administration of medical care under the ESI Scheme vests in the State Government/ Union Territory Administrations except in Delhi and NOIDA where it is being administered directly by the ESIC. The ESI hospitals at Tirupathi and Nizamabad were commissioned recently. The medical facilities for out-patient services and inpatient service for medical, surgical and diagnostic purposes are available in the ESI hospital at Tirupathi.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh has planned to provide endoscopy, neurology and cardiology services in the hospital at Tirupathi. In Nizamabad ESI hospital specialist out-patient services have been started with effect from 3.2.2000. Necessary action is already being taken by the Government of Andhra Pradesh to start all in-patient services in the hospital at Nizamabad.

Central legislation for workers

2365. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration for enactment of Central Legislation to safeguard the interests of workers engaged in agriculture and construction works; and

(b) if so, by when the proposed Legislation is likely to be enacted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) The Government have already enacted two legislations namely the Building and other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 and the Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Cess Act, 1996 for regulating the conditions of service and providing certain welfare measures to the building and other construction workers. The proposal of a Central legislation for agricultural workers is at the stage of considceration in consultation with concerned Ministries/Departments and State Governments.

Plight of workers in Surat

†2366. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is not a fact that about forty thousand workers of Murena and Bhind districts of Madhya Pradesh, who earn their livelihood in Surat city of Gujarat by cutting diamond, driving auto and drawing four wheel hand carts are being beaten up and driven off from there;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken against this forcible escape through mental, physical and econmic affliction; and

(c) the names of the persons involved in this kind of act and the authority which have given them such right and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) According to the report received from the State Government, no such complaints have been received by them. However, the State Government sent a team of officers recently to enquire into the allegations but they could not be substantiated.

It has further been reported that the interest of these workers are being taken care of by the State Government.

Placement of women officers on deputation

2367. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 83 given in the Rajya Sabha on 24th February, 2000 and state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.